

Fayette Juvenile Planning Grant Drug Court Program Process Evaluation

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide the results of a process evaluation of the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program. The process evaluation included a extensive interviews and surveys with 12 individuals from seven different agency perspectives including the planning coordinator of the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court and the Juvenile Drug Court Judge.

The data for this report on the planned Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program is for the period of July 1999 to June 2000. The mission of Kentucky's Drug Courts is to create a criminal justice environment that stops illicit drug use and related criminal activity and promotes recovery. The Drug Court team of the planned Fayette County Juvenile Drug Court program has suggested that adolescents will be accepted into the program through a post-adjudication track. However, that decision has not been finalized. Participants will spend approximately one year in the Drug Court program before graduation.

There will be three phases in the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program. Participants must successfully progress through each of the phases before they graduate from the Drug Court program. As participants move through the phases, the number of court sessions they must attend decreases, as does the intensity of supervision. Participants will be required to attend their scheduled group sessions and will not be permitted to miss sessions because of work or other reasons.

Program Goals. The Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program will report to the Administrative Office of the Courts on the following goals: promoting abstinence; decreasing recidivism; increasing community safety; increasing life skills; increasing community awareness; and expanding and maintaining a resource base. The Drug Court team is currently developing additional program goals that will be specific to the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program.

Graduation. If an individual successfully completes the Drug Court program, the Drug Court Judge may set the participant's guilty plea aside and his or her charge may be expunged from his or her record. Participants will be eligible to graduate from the Drug Court program after they have passed through all three phases.

Drug Court Staff. The Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program does not employ any full-time staff members. After additional funding is received a case specialist will be hired.

Drug Court Judge. Presently, there will be one Judge presiding over the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program. Judge David Hayse has been on the bench for eight years. He initiated the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program in conjunction with other community officials and stakeholders. He has attended a variety of training sessions throughout the country to plan and implement the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program.

Drug Court Participants. The program will target adolescents involved in the criminal justice system between the ages of 12 and 17 with a substance abuse problem. The planning coordinator indicated that most of the Juvenile Drug Court program participants will be predominantly male and have a history of anti-social behaviors and problems in school. She also indicated that the drugs of choice for the adolescents served by the Drug Court program would most likely be marijuana, alcohol, and cocaine.

Family Involvement. Family members will be required to participate in the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program. At least one parent/legal guardian will be required to attend the Drug Court status hearing with the adolescent. Family members will also be required to attend group sessions, both with and without the Drug Court participants.

Strengths. The representatives surveyed indicated that the strengths of the planned Drug Court program include: (1) The community's approval of a treatment approach versus detention; (2) Positive rehabilitation for adolescent offenders with substance abuse problems; (3) Intense supervision of participants; (4) Mandated family involvement; (5) Frequent and random urine testing; (6) Increased accountability for each adolescent; and (7) Swift and consistent sanctions for non-compliance.

Advice to Other Juvenile Drug Courts. The advice to other Juvenile Drug Court programs included: (1) "The Juvenile Drug Court personnel should not provide all of the treatment, because the treatment may become too focused on one issue or strategy, and may not treat every participant's underlying problem;" (2) Implement more community service into the program requirements; (3) Provide aftercare services for the adolescents; (4) Involve family as much as possible; (5) Encourage other people close to the adolescent to participate; and (6) Get the drug abusing adolescents into a variety of treatment modalities.

Summary. In summary, the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court received a federal planning grant in July 1999. The program will be firmly grounded on the Key Components and will have three program phases, which will take an average participant approximately one year to complete. The individuals on the Drug Court team have worked extensively with adolescents in treatment and/or in the court system. The Judge and Drug Court team truly believe in the program and also believe that the program will be an opportunity to make a difference in the community. The most compelling aspect of the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program will be that it offers the opportunity to address substance abuse and criminal behavior at an early age. An early intervention for adolescents may prevent adult criminal justice and substance abuse problems. The coordination of the judiciary, the Drug Court staff, and the treatment provider is also a compelling aspect of the Juvenile Drug Court program. This comprehensive and coordinated effort will facilitate client success in the program and will provide immediate sanctions when an adolescent is non-compliant or breaks program rules.

Program Description and Background

The motto for the Kentucky Drug Courts is “A chance...a change.” Kentucky’s Drug Courts are aligned with more than 400 Drug Courts in operation and 220 Drug Courts that are in the planning process, across the United States.¹ Fayette County will be one of five Juvenile Drug Court programs in the state of Kentucky. “The number of [adolescent] cases involving drug offenses in 1995 was 145% greater than the number of cases in 1991.”² For Fayette County, the Kentucky State Police reported a 50% increase in alcohol and drug arrests for adolescents between 1995 and 1996.³ With this in mind, the mission of Kentucky’s Drug Courts is to create a criminal justice environment that stops illicit drug use and related criminal activity and promotes recovery.

The Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program will be located in the inner Bluegrass Region of the State.⁴ The Fayette Juvenile Drug Court will serve only the Fayette County area. The population estimate for the county in 1999 was 225,366.⁵ In 1997, a total of 88 adolescents in Fayette County were arrested for drug and alcohol offenses: 30 were arrested for narcotic drug offenses; 39 were arrested for driving under the influence; 12 were arrested for liquor law violations, and 7 were arrested for drunkenness.⁶

The purpose of this report is to provide the results of a process evaluation of the planned Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program. In all, 12 individuals representing seven different agency perspectives provided information about the planned Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program (see Appendix A for process evaluation methodology and details). The data for this report is from the period of July 1999 to June 2000.

The Fayette Juvenile Drug Court will be one of five Juvenile Drug Court programs in the State of Kentucky. Juvenile Drug Courts differ from adult Drug Courts in that they must focus on the special needs of adolescents. They must: (1) Counteract the negative influences of peers, gangs, and family members, (2) Address the needs of the family, especially families with substance abuse problems, (3) Comply with confidentiality requirements for adolescent proceedings while obtaining information necessary to address the adolescent’s problems and progress, and (4) Motivate adolescent offenders to change, especially given their sense of invulnerability and lack of maturity.⁷ It is expected that the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program will impact the justice system by decreasing the Department of Juvenile Justice caseload and decreasing recidivism.

¹ Office of Justice Programs, Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project. June 1999

² “Offenders in Juvenile Court, 1995.” Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. December 1997.

³ 1996 Crime in Kentucky Annual Report

⁴ Kentucky Atlas and Gazetteer. <http://www.uky.edu/KentuckyAtlas>. June 27, 2000.

⁵ 1999 County Population Estimates. <http://cbpa.louisville.edu/ksdc/kpr/popest/cnty99.txt>. June 26, 2000

⁶ 1997 Crime in Kentucky Annual Report

⁷ “The Juvenile Drug Court Movement.” Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. March 1997.

Fayette Juvenile Drug Court Planning

The Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program received a planning grant in July 1999. Judge Hayse initiated the planning grant application. He indicated that there was a great need for a Juvenile Drug Court program in the community from conversations with school system representatives and Department of Juvenile Justice workers, and also by looking at adolescent crime statistics. It is expected that the community will be very accepting of the Juvenile Drug Court program because the community recognizes the need for it. Additionally, the Adult Drug Court program in Fayette County has been well received, which should facilitate the implementation of an adolescent Drug Court program.

The Juvenile Drug Court program is targeted to begin December 2000. A primary treatment provider has not yet been selected. The Drug Court team has been deliberating over the type of treatment services they believe would be best for clients. Community linkages have been established with the local schools, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Legal Aid office, the Lexington-Fayette County Police Department, and the County Attorney's Office, in order to plan an effective Drug Court program.

The planning coordinator noted that the overall, biggest problem with implementing an adolescent Drug Court program in the community would be getting the families involved. She indicated that it will be extremely hard to get adolescents and their families involved since many of those referred to the program will be in substance-abusing households. She pointed out that if the parents were substance abusers themselves, they would be less likely to encourage the adolescent to participate in the program because they are fearful of being sanctioned themselves. However, the plan is to mandate family involvement in all aspects of the program.

In the program model developed for Fayette County, adolescents most likely will be accepted into the program through post-adjudication track. However, the Drug Court team has not officially selected the track of eligibility.

The Fayette Juvenile Drug Court will be grounded in the Key Components described in the 1997 publication *Defining Drug Courts: The Key Components*⁸, which were developed by the Drug Court Standards Committee, to ensure the primary goals were met (see Table 1). In exchange for successful completion of the treatment program, the court may dismiss the original charge, reduce or set aside a sentence, offer some lesser penalty, or offer a combination of these. Drug Courts transform the roles of both criminal justice practitioners and Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) treatment providers. The Judge is the central figure in a team effort that focuses on sobriety and accountability as primary goals. Treatment providers not only become part of a criminal justice team but are also integrated into, and learn more about, the criminal justice system.

⁸ *Defining Drug Courts: The Key Components* (January, 1997). U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Drug Courts Programs Office.

Table 1. Key Components

1. Drug Courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.
2. Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
3. Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the Drug Court program.
4. Drug Courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
5. Frequent alcohol and other drug testing monitor abstinence.
6. A coordinated strategy governs Drug Court responses to participants' compliance.
7. Ongoing judicial interaction with each Drug Court participant will be essential.
8. Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gage effectiveness.
9. Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Drug Court planning, implementation, and operations.
10. Forging partnerships among Drug Courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances Drug Court effectiveness.

Participants will attend individual, group, and family sessions provided by Certified Alcohol/Drug Counselors. They may also be required to attend AA and NA and subjected to frequent and random drug tests.

Program Goals/Achievements

In addition to meeting the Key Components, the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program will make regular reports to the Administrative Office of the Courts about the following goals and measures or benchmarks for goal achievement (see Table 2). So far, one newspaper article has been written about the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court Program (see Appendix D). The Drug Court team is also currently developing additional program goals and measures that will be more specific to the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program.

Table 2. Program Goals and Measures

Program Goals	Measures for Goal Achievement
1. Promote abstinence	Clean urines; numbers of meetings attended (support groups, education groups, group sessions, individual sessions)
2. Decrease recidivism	# re-arrests while in the program and after graduation; Reduced truancy
3. Community safety	Lower community drug arrests; lower property crime
4. Increase life skills	Increase personal responsibility; Court approved housing; court approved employment; Increased educational/academic achievement level of participants; Enhanced family functioning; Develop coping skills
5. Community Awareness	# media contacts; national recognition; additional funding; requests to speak; more referrals
6. Expand and maintain resource base	Expanding and maintaining the number of agencies the Drug Court program can refer participants to or who work with the Drug Court program

Recruitment and Screening

Participation in the program will be voluntary. Participants will be referred to the program through any of the following sources: public defenders, prosecuting attorneys, police, Department of Juvenile Justice, parents, treatment providers, Judges, and educators. A program brochure will be used to recruit potential clients and their families (see Appendix B). Participants will have to meet inclusionary and exclusionary rules before being able to enter the program. The Drug Court team has not yet officially determined the eligibility criteria for the Drug Court program. However, members have suggested that in order to be eligible the adolescent must have a drug or alcohol abuse problem that has led to his or her arrest and be between the ages of 12 and 17. Prior felony offenders may be eligible. There will be several exclusionary criteria for the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program. Persons currently charged with, or previously convicted of, any violent offense or sex offense, as defined by state or federal law, will not be admitted to the Drug Court program.

If the adolescent is eligible for the Drug Court program, he or she will be referred to the designated treatment provider for an assessment. If the Fayette County Drug Court program staff does treatment, the Youth Assessment Index (YAI) will be used to assess the juvenile. (See Appendix E for the YAI).

Capacity

The Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program expects to have 10 participants six months after the start date and approximately 50 participants one year after the start date of the program. Participants will enter the program separately. A waiting list is not expected for the Juvenile Drug Court program initially.

Timing

At the time the adolescent is deemed potentially eligible for the Drug Court program, the Juvenile Drug Court Judge will refer the adolescent for assessment. The completion of the eligibility assessment and initial drug testing will occur within seven days of referral. Within seven to ten days after a participant is determined eligible to enter the Juvenile Drug Court program, he or she will make his or her first Drug Court status hearing appearance. Individualized Program Plans will be developed within seven days after a participant enters the program.

Participant Characteristics

The targeted group of participants for the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program will be adolescents aged 12 to 17. The Judge stated that an adolescent's typical criminal history will pertain to truancy, status conduct beyond control, habitual runaways, and minor delinquent offenses. The planning coordinator indicated that the primary drugs of choice for the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court participants are expected to be alcohol, cocaine, and marijuana. She also indicated that the participants might have anti-social behaviors and problems in school.

The Drug Court Judge estimated that 40% to 50% of participants who enter into the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program will have been in some sort of drug or alcohol treatment, prior to entering.

Fayette Juvenile Drug Court Program Overview

Orientation. The program components will be explained to participants and their families by the treatment coordinator during the participant's assessment, and in more detail by the case specialist upon entrance into the program. Drug Court program requirements will be re-explained to participants and their families any time the Drug Court Judge or Drug Court staff feel that further explanation is necessary.

Program Documentation. The Drug Court team is currently developing the participant handbook. Participants, and their families, will receive a participant handbook upon entering and will sign an agreement of participation.

Phases. There will be three phases in the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program. Participants must successfully progress through each of the phases before they graduate from the Drug Court program. As participants move through the phases, the number of court sessions they must attend decreases, as does the intensity of supervision. Participants will be required to attend their scheduled group sessions and will not be permitted to miss sessions because of work or other reasons. An aftercare component will also be included in the program.

Individual Program Plans (IPP). Once the participant enters the Drug Court program, an individualized program plan (IPP), will be developed. The Drug Court staff and treatment staff, as well as the participant and his or her family, will assist in developing, updating, and evaluating the IPP. The plans will outline specific responsibilities and goals with timetables. The plans may include family and individual counseling; experiential education opportunities; frequent and random drug testing; educational and vocational training, and health and community activities. The assessment information, criminal history, educational level, medical issues, and restitution issues, as well as input from the participant, will go into the planning of the IPP. The IPP will differ for each participant based on individual needs. The IPP will be updated at the beginning of each phase or as behavior deems appropriate. The IPP update will be based on the adolescent's performance and accomplishments.

The treatment program for the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program has not yet been selected. The Drug Court team is still searching for treatment resources they feel are appropriate for the adolescents served by the Drug Court program.

Family involvement. Any person living in the household of the participant, and/or biological parents, will be defined as the participant's family. The family will be mandated to attend treatment, permit home visits by the Drug Court staff and treatment providers, and attend Drug Court status hearings. If necessary, the family will be required to work on parenting skills. The Strengthening Families program may also be a part of the Juvenile Drug Court program. The Strengthening Families Program is a science-based-prevention intervention program for parents, guardians and children. Families will learn and improve upon communication skills, thus enabling parents and children to recognize the family responsibilities of preventing substance abuse.

Drug Court Status Hearings. The Drug Court program participants will be seen on a Drug Court docket. Drug Court status hearings will be held at the Fayette County District Courthouse. Drug Court status hearings will be held weekly in Phase I. In Phase II participants will attend status hearings bi-weekly, and in Phase III participants will attend Drug Court status hearings once a month. All status hearings will take place after school hours. The order of appearance on the Juvenile Drug Court program docket will be those who are doing well, followed by those who are to receive sanctions, then the new participants last.

Prior to all Drug Court status hearings, the Drug Court team will meet in the Judge's chambers to review and discuss the progress of the participants appearing on the Drug Court docket that day. The case specialist will present case notes to the Judge. The team and Judge will work together to make recommendations for particular participant's cases.

All participants, along with at least one parent/legal guardian, are expected to attend their designated Drug Court status hearing and stay for the entire session. The treatment provider, case specialist, treatment coordinator, police department representative, a representative from the Department of Juvenile Justice, representatives from prosecution and defense, and representatives from the school system may also be present at the Drug Court status hearings. During the session, the Judge will speak to each participant, along with his or her parent, individually.

Payments. The Juvenile Drug Court program participants will be required to pay court related financial obligations such as child support, restitution, probation fees, fines, court costs, and any other legal fees. If fees are charged to Drug Court participants for being in the program, the fees will be assessed on a sliding scale. The Drug Court staff will monitor and verify fee payments by having the participants present receipts.

Program Rules. Participants will also have specific rules they will be required to follow while participating in the Drug Court program. The program rules will be included in the participant handbook, which is currently under development by the Drug Court team.

Although Drug Court status hearings and treatment sessions require transportation, the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program will not provide this service. Public transportation is available in Fayette County. The Drug Court program will not provide childcare; participants will be required to find their own childcare.

The Drug Court Staff must screen for and approve all prescription drugs, if they are narcotics. If a participant is prescribed a narcotic, the Drug Court staff may call the participant's doctor to discuss the prescription.

Education and Employment. Participants of the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program will be required to maintain Court-approved employment, training, and/or education. Participants will be required to attend and actively participate in school, if enrolled. If the participant drops out of school, he or she will be required to obtain, or work toward, a General Education Diploma (GED). Education level and needs will be assessed through communication between the Drug Court staff and the school counselors for those participants enrolled in schools.

If the Juvenile Drug Court participant is not enrolled in school, a GED program, or some type of vocational training, he or she will be required to seek and gain employment. The Juvenile Drug Court program will not accommodate the participants' work schedules. The participant must make prior arrangements with the employer in order to be available to attend all Drug Court program sessions and treatment. The case specialist will verify employment by phone and site visits when necessary.

If the participant needs help in finding employment, the Drug Court team will refer the participants to the appropriate agencies. If a participant is not enrolled in school, some type of training program, or is unemployed, he or she will be required to do community service. If the participant is terminated from a job, he or she may be sanctioned depending upon the circumstances. The planning coordinator commented that Juvenile Drug Court participants may find jobs through fast food restaurants, retailers, and grocery stores in the area. The Mayor's Training Center will also be utilized.

Living Conditions. Participants' families will be required to reside in court-approved housing throughout the program. A Drug Court staff member will verify living conditions through home visits, as deemed necessary. The Drug Court staff, the Department of Social Services, and Housing Authority will be available for those families needing help with housing. Generally participants live with their parents, but if the living condition is deemed unsuitable for the participant, the Drug Court staff will notify the Department of Social Services. The Department of Social Services will try to place the adolescent with another suitable adult, usually a family member.

Health. Physical and mental health will be assessed through the treatment provider and the Health Department. The Drug Court program will make medical referrals if need be. Group sessions on sexually transmitted diseases may be offered by the Health Department. Referrals will be verified by checking with the participant to make sure he or she complies with the health care provider's recommendations and follows through with any prescribed medications and/or therapy.

Other Program Components

In addition to the treatment components the adolescents will receive, there will be several components of the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program that will make the program unique: community service, book reports, physical exercise, good deeds, and family involvement.

Community service will be primarily used for sanctions in the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program. Typically, community service will be invoked when a participant not enrolled in school or some form of training or is unemployed. Participants may be required to do community service at the Fayette Juvenile Detention Center, the Fayette County Courthouse, the Hope Center, the Salvation Army, God's Pantry, and/or Habitat for Humanity. Community service will help to promote volunteerism in the community and encourage the youth to see this as their community.

Book reports will be used to increase the participant's literacy skills and knowledge base. For example, journal assignments will be used for introspective analysis and substance abuse education.

Physical exercise will be a part of the treatment program to promote healthy living and encourage the adolescents to participate in substance-free activities. The local YMCA and community centers may provide the facilities for the physical and recreational activities Drug Court participants will engage in.

Good deeds will be used to increase awareness of others and produce a sense of pride in the adolescents through his or her giving back to the community.

Family involvement will be an integral part of the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program. Family members must cooperate with the Drug Court program rules. If they choose not to cooperate, the Drug Court Judge may sanction them. Parental sanctions range will from fines to confinement in the Fayette County Detention Center.

Participant Contact

Participants will have contact with a variety of program components on a regular basis during their participation the Drug Court program. Along with regular appearances before the Drug Court Judge, staff will see participants for individual and group counseling. In addition, the contact they have with various program components will change as they move through the phases.

Relapse Patterns

Participants will be expected to relapse most in Phase I; however, there will be relapses in every phase. The following situations were mentioned as possibly triggering relapse for Drug Court participants: peer pressure, problems in dealing with emotions, problems at school, truancy, movement to another phase, crisis in the family, major life events, seeing old friends/places, stress at home, release from the program, and treatment discharge. Additionally, the Judge feels that missed sessions, resulting in missed positive reinforcement, and free time to commit crimes due to truancy are the situations that will likely trigger relapse for the adolescents.

Participant Monitoring

Participants will be monitored by the Drug Court Judge, the Drug Court team, and by their families. In addition, when participants are in treatment, whether residential or intensive outpatient, they will be monitored by the treatment facilities.

Urine Drug Testing. One of the most important ways participants will be monitored in the Juvenile Drug Court program will be through drug testing. Drug testing will be done frequently and randomly.

Drug screens will be conducted randomly; with participants being tested a minimum of two times per week throughout the duration of the Drug Court program. The number of urine drug screens may be increased if the Drug Court team deems appropriate. To check the integrity of the drug test, the administering staff member will observe the participant give the urine sample. A Breathalyzer test will be used in order to detect participant use of alcohol. The Breathalyzer test will be used for those with a history of alcohol abuse on a regular basis and other participants on a random basis.

Home Incarceration. As a sanction, the Drug Court program may impose home incarceration. The Drug Court Case Specialist, program, Fayette County Detention Center, and the participant's family will assist in monitoring adolescents who are on home incarceration. Participants who are home incarcerated will remain at their home at all times, except when attending Drug Court status hearings, treatment, school, training programs, work, or other appointments approved by the Drug Court program.

Sanctions and Rewards. There will be a system of graduated sanctions and rewards. Sanctions will be specific to each offense and uniform for each participant; however, individual circumstances will be given consideration. The Judge has the final decision on what type of sanctions to impose upon participants, although he will rely heavily on information from the Drug Court team.

Violations of Drug Court rules will prompt the use of sanctions. Acts of non-compliance will also be followed with sanctions, depending on the level of the offense, either immediately or at the next Court date. Participants with new charges will be met with immediate sanctions while participants that miss meetings will be sanctioned at the next court date. The range of sanctions will be community service to committing the participant to Department of Juvenile Justice and/or placed in detention. The most extreme sanction will be termination from Drug Court.

Participants will gain rewards through being compliant with the program and showing significant levels of success. Rewards will be individualized; some participants need verbal acknowledgement of achievement, while material things may be necessary to catch the attention of others. The reward used most often will be the Judge's acknowledgement of achievement and progression through the phases. Other rewards will include: giving gift certificates, easing a participant's curfew, reducing the intensity of supervision, and presenting certificates.

Graduation. The minimum time requirement for graduation will be 1 year. A participant must: Actively participate in the Drug Court program; Exhibit a significant effort in academic performance; Be in stable living conditions; Be employed if not enrolled in school, seeking GED, or enrolled in a training program; Mentor other Drug Court participants; and Have clean drug tests for at least six months. In addition, the participants must successfully go through all three phases. Graduations will take place at the Fayette County Courthouse with all participants and families in attendance. A keynote speaker will be asked to address the graduates and their families. Participants and their families will be asked to speak and share their stories. Participants will be given award certificates, t-shirts, and a standing ovation, followed by a reception.

Case Disposition. After successfully completing the Juvenile Drug Court program, a Drug Court program participant who entered through the post-adjudication diversion track will appear before the judge in which his or her case originated, and the charge will be dismissed or set aside. If the defendant entered the Drug Court program through the probation track and successfully completed the Drug Court program his or her sentence will be conditionally discharged for the remainder of the probated term.

Program Removal. Participants can be removed from the program if they are charged with additional offenses while in the Drug Court program, if they commit a violent act, the participant absconds from the program, and if they continue to use alcohol or other drugs and refuse to follow the program requirements. The Drug Court will notify the participant of failure at the next Drug Court status hearing.

Aftercare

Aftercare activities include the continuance of attending group sessions and AA/NA meetings, mentoring, public speaking, and maintaining employment. Participants' family members may also be required to attend group sessions during the aftercare component of the Drug Court program.

Information Capabilities and Reporting

Regular reports about the Juvenile Drug Court participants will be made to the public defender, County Attorney, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Juvenile Corrections, the primary treatment provider, and the Judge. The Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program will be able to produce aggregate status reports on the progress of participants at each status hearing and at other times if necessary.

The treatment coordinator and case specialist will present notes on participants to the Judge and Drug Court team at staffing meetings prior to the status hearing. Information contained in the case notes will include: participant's activities, any acts of non-compliance and/or progress, urinalysis results, record of treatment attendance, school/academic performance, appearance for drug testing, appearance at Court hearings, personal history, notes on participants compliance with court ordered conditions, and counselor notes. The case notes will be presented orally and in a scorecard format.

Monthly, quarterly, and annual reports will be made to the Administrative Office of the Courts. Monthly reports will include the number of candidates referred, the number assessed, the number of individual drug screens, number of candidates eligible, and the number transferred from probation. Also reported will be the number of participants moving to each phase, the number of court sessions, the number of participants identified as using based on urine drug screens, the number of individual and group sessions, the number of family/support sessions, the number of participants referred to outside agencies; employment and educational status of participants, number of employment and housing verifications, amount paid toward court obligations, the number of sanctions, the number of participants rearrested for new charges, the number of terminations, and total number of active participants in the proceeding month.

Quarterly reports will summarize monthly statistics, the process, and progress toward outlined objectives and performance indicators listed in the Program Goals and Measures section of this report. The quarterly reports will also include any staff additions, trainings attended, and other significant information. Annual reports will include statistics about participants, successful completion of phases, number of discharges, number involved in an education program, level of compliance and attendance at treatment, family participation and compliance, the drugs of choice, the recidivism rate, and the number and results of urinalysis.

The following information will be used in producing annual aggregate status reports on the progress of participants: age, sex, and race of participant; offense and drug of choice; number of relapses; participant level of compliance; treatment session attendance; family participation and compliance; number of participants that successfully complete phases; number that remain clean and sober throughout the entire program; number that complete the program successfully; and number terminated. In addition to the status reports, an automated data collection system is planned. The Drug Court staff will receive regular reports from the school system, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Youth Services. The reports will be formal and informal in nature.

Program Decision Making

There are many entities that will contribute to decisions about the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program. The AOC Drug Court Manager will receive reports on the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court and will be a part of the overall decision process. The Judge, Drug Court staff, the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court team, and treatment providers will contribute to decision-making regarding the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program. The team will make recommendations to the Drug Court Judge regarding program changes. Any changes to the program will be documented in the quarterly and annual reports to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Funding

The Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program received a federal planning grant in July 1999. It is yet to be determined if participants will pay fees as part of the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program. However, they may pay for some treatment and urinalysis costs in the future. Fees will be based on a sliding scale. Private insurance or IMPACT-PLUS, a division of Medicaid, will be used to pay for some treatment. Participants will still be required to pay child support, any restitution fees, legal fees, fines, and/or probation fees. Fee payments will be monitored and verified by the Drug Court staff.

Evaluation

The following information will be used in a report to evaluate the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program after implementation: Number of relapses per participant; Percentage of clean urinalysis; Frequency of new arrests; Regaining custody; Reduction in probation violation caseloads; Recidivism; Cost; Retention in program/treatment; Time in custody; Participant progress in education development; Employment status; Stable living conditions; Reunified families; Birth of drug free babies; Improved academic performance; Graduation from high school; Increased involvement in school activities; Increased involvement in other activities; and Increased involvement in the community.

Information that the Judge believes to be necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program includes: (1) Long-term success of participants; (2) Immediate reduction in drug use by participants, and (3) Monitoring participant education.

Major Problems Encountered

Judge Hayse indicated some problems encountered by the planned Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program include getting key people committed to working with the program and creating linkages with community resources.

Program Strengths

The most useful program components mentioned by surveyed representatives included: (1) Getting adolescents that are drug abusers into varied treatment procedures, so that every participant's actual problem is addressed; (2) Utilizing accredited providers offering prevention education, support groups, and related support services; 6) Drug testing; (7) Involving the entire family; and (8) Assessing candidates for appropriateness in program.

Potential Program Changes

Changes that the planning coordinator and Judge noted that will need to be made included finding appropriate sanctions and rewards to fit the adolescents. The Judge also noted that the eligibility criteria may need to be altered later. Any changes to the program will be documented in the policy and procedures manual.

Advice to Other Drug Courts

The advice to other Drug Court programs included: More community service should be implemented into the program requirements; Drug Court should provide aftercare services for the adolescent; Involve family as much as possible; Encourage other people close to the adolescent to participate; and Get the drug abusing adolescents into varied treatment procedures, so that every participant's actual problem is addressed.

Staff Characteristics

The Drug Court program has not hired any staff members as of yet. After additional funding is received, two staff members will be hired, a treatment coordinator and case specialist. The normal full-time workweek will be 37.5 hours.

Drug Court Judge. One Judge currently works with the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program, Judge David Hayse. He intends to work with the Drug Court program at least one more year. He has been on the bench in District Court for eight years and also serves as a Juvenile Court Judge. He is involved with Teen-Pop, an after-school drug-counseling program, and he serves on the board of the Florence Crittenden Home, a shelter for single pregnant women and a foster care shelter for non-pregnant, adolescent females.

Judge Training. In order to prepare for the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program, the Judge has attended various training sessions around the country. National Drug Court trainings the Judge has attended include: Juvenile Drug Court Planning Workshop, Pensacola, Florida; National Juvenile Drug Court Conference, Phoenix, Arizona; Juvenile Drug Court Planning Workshop, Arlington, Virginia; and Juvenile Drug Court Planning Workshop, San Diego, California. He has also observed the Adult Drug Court in Fayette County.

Drug Court Team. The Fayette Juvenile Drug Court Drug Court Team has nine members. The team includes the Juvenile Drug Court Judge, the adolescent public defender, the adolescent prosecuting attorney, a representative from the Department of Juvenile Justice, a representative from the Department of Youth Services, and representatives from the local schools. The team has met twice in the Judge's chambers at the Fayette County District Courthouse to begin planning the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program. The next Drug Court team meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2000. The team is working to set the policy for the Drug Court and will also monitor the program after implementation. The Drug Court team members have attended every Drug Court training session along with the Judge. The following table lists the members of the team.

Table 3. Drug Court Team Members

Member	Affiliation
Judge David Hayse	Fayette District Court/Drug Court Judge
Connie Reed	Drug Court Coordinator
Roberta Daughtery	Drug Court Case Specialist
Ramona Bowling	Public Defender
Diane Minnifield	Prosecuting Attorney
Terri Stivers	Department of Juvenile Justice
Jai Underwood	Department of Youth Services
Don Blue	Fayette County Board of Education
Flo Lankster	Fayette County Board of Education

Interns. The Drug Court program will use one to two interns per academic semester. The Interns may be recruited from local universities such as the University of Kentucky and Transylvania University. Interns will be trained by going to in-services, observing staff, and reading manuals about the Drug Court program. Interns typically will work 10 to 20 hours per week or whatever their class requires.

Volunteers. The planning coordinator indicated that volunteers may not be used immediately; however, as the program grows, they may be required.

Community Agencies

The Fayette Juvenile Drug Court Program will utilize community organizations for some resource support and publicity. The contact with these resources will help to spread a positive image of the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court Program in the community. Building community familiarity and support of the program allows participants to have an easier acceptance back into the community. In order to expand community involvement, the Drug Court team will utilize media coverage and actively interact with community agencies. The following table presents the community organizations with which the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court Program plans to work.

Table 4. Community Linkages

Organization	Service
Comprehensive Care Center	Treatment
County Health Departments	Medical needs
Local schools	Education and monitoring
Adult Education Program	Education needs, such as GED preparation
Local Alcoholic's Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous	Treatment
Adult Education Program	Education needs
Operation Read	Education needs
Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation	Job services
Housing Authority	Housing needs
Vocational Rehabilitation	Educational and job training needs
YMCA	Physical and recreational activities
Hope Center	Community service outlet
Salvation Army	Community service outlet
God's Pantry	Community service outlet
Faith communities	Counseling

The planning coordinator indicated that the collaboration with the following agencies will be excellent: School system; Court system; the Treatment community; Department of Juvenile Justice; Law Enforcement; Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Department of Youth Services.

Perceptions

Judge Perceptions

One Judge currently works with the planned Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program, Judge David Hayse. He has been on the bench for 8 years and initiated the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court. Judge Hayse has attended Juvenile Drug Court conferences in Phoenix, Arizona; Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; Arlington, Virginia; and San Diego, California, to learn more about the fundamentals of Juvenile Drug Court.

Judge Hayse believes that the Juvenile Drug Court program will impact the Judicial System by providing more intense, direct involvement with the adolescents. By seeing the same Judge weekly, he believes that the adolescents will take the program seriously. Further, a great time commitment is required on part of the Judge. The Judge hopes that the program will have an effect the youths involved. He also noted that in the long run, the criminal justice system will hopefully save time and money if these adolescents are treated and do not return to the system as adult offenders.

Judge Hayse foresees the Juvenile Drug Court program having a positive impact on the community by providing a more positive relationship between the youth and the community.

Judge Hayse stated that the Juvenile Drug Court program plans to admit adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17 years of age. The adolescents' typical criminal history will pertain to truancy, status conduct beyond control, habitual runaways, and minor delinquent offenses. The Judge does not believe that adolescents who are already on probation, or have more than one serious offense on record, will be eligible for the Drug Court program because they are considered to be experienced delinquent offenders.

Judge Hayse feels that adolescents will find out about the Juvenile Drug Court program mainly through probation and word-of-mouth. He expects that all adolescents will have had the same level of previous treatment prior to entering the Juvenile Drug Court program. The Judge specified a few programs that are in the Fayette County area that serve the adolescent population: Department of Juvenile Justice; Day treatment provided by the local schools; and Court Designated Workers who offer early intervention at the diversion level. Judge Hayse feels that Court involvement will get the youths' attention, which is one great difference between the Juvenile Drug Court program and other treatment programs. Another difference the Judge believes will help facilitate the completion of the Juvenile Drug Court program is the community and family involvement.

Judge Hayse believes that Juvenile Drug Court participants will choose to enter the program to avoid detention, placement outside of the home, and that some may actually desire to change the problems they have acquired due to substance abuse. He also feels that it will build self-esteem.

The Judge is planning on gauging the adolescents' progress in the program through reports written by the adolescent's treatment providers, school officials, and probation officers. Random urine tests will also be part of the program. Judge Hayse is also planning on monitoring the adolescents' employment status and other community activities in which they may be involved.

Judge Hayse's philosophy regarding the sanctioning process is that sanctioning must occur immediately after the offense in order to have any effect on the juvenile. He also believes that detention should not be used as a sanction all of the time. The Judge feels that something of value should be taken away from the adolescent for the sanction to be effective. Some examples of sanctions the Judge hopes to employ on the adolescents include electronic monitoring for home detention, removal from group activities, in-court admonishment, and revocation of probation as the most extreme sanction. The Judge also feels that taking away experiential rewards such as field trips will be very helpful in the sanctioning process. Judge Hayse plans to employ certain rewards as well. He explained that praise in court, reducing participation time in the program, and family involvement will be some of the potential rewards for the Juvenile Drug Court participants. In order to produce a lasting impact on the families, he is planning to offer diplomas and certificates to the adolescents at graduation.

Judge Hayse foresees that staying drug free, avoiding peer pressure, committing truancy, avoiding certain hangouts, and establishing a commitment to the program will be the most difficult aspects for the adolescents. He feels that stress at home, peer pressure, missed sessions resulting in missed positive reinforcement, and free time to commit crimes due to truancy, are the situations that will likely trigger relapses. The Judge believes that being drug free, developing self-worth, and changing internally are the most important things an adolescent will have to do in order to be successful in the Juvenile Drug Court program.

The Judge feels that if the adolescent recognizes that the adverse effects of his or her lifestyle are both physical and psychological, the adolescent may become consistent in his or her conforming behavior. He also expects less mature adolescents, between the ages of 12 and 14, to have a more difficult time with the program requirements, resulting in non-completion of the program. Judge Hayse stated that the Juvenile Drug Court program will take approximately 12 months to complete. However, he would like to offer an incentive of getting out early. He would also like to see an aftercare component with mentors for the adolescents. He feels that contact with a mentor for about 6-12 months after the completion of the program would be beneficial for each adolescent. The Judge is not planning any other aftercare services for the Juvenile Drug Court participants at this time, but hopes to in the future.

Judge Hayse plans on involving the family by using his judicial ability to mandate legal guardians to participate in the program and hopes to encourage other people close to the adolescent to participate voluntarily. The family will assist in monitoring the adolescents, and the Judge plans on recognizing the families in Court as a reward. He plans on sanctioning the families, if they are mandated to participate in the program and fail to do so. If substance abuse is present in the family, he will refer them to another program. The Judge plans on treating the adolescents and their families separately at first, and then bringing them together.

Judge Hayse believes that the Juvenile Drug Court program will impact the court system by changing how adolescents are treated in the criminal justice system and the community. He also feels that if the program is successful, more intense, specialized programs may follow. The Judge indicated that a strong commitment from all parties involved and the program's resources would be critical aspects of the Juvenile Drug Court program. The Judge sees himself as being the ultimate "bad guy" in the program in order to motivate the adolescents. He also sees himself as becoming an inspiring leader to encourage others and to build up the self-esteem of the Juvenile Drug Court participants. The Department of Youth Services will initially will be in charge of monitoring the compliance of the adolescents and will control who is eligible for the program through referrals. The Judge feels that the school system will be in charge of monitoring truancy, reporting activities that the adolescents may be engaged in, and getting youths involved with positive programs that interest them and will be enjoyable.

Judge Hayse expects that the most helpful aspects of the Juvenile Drug Court program will be the concentration of resources, providing alternatives, and showing interest in the adolescents in order to give them the feeling that someone cares. He foresees the drug education needing improvement once the Juvenile Drug Court has been implemented along with the sanctions and rewards. A modification of the eligibility criteria for the younger participants may also be needed. The Judge anticipates that getting the right people committed, community resources and rewards, consistent drug testing schedule, and getting the adolescents to adhere to their schedules, will be the major problems during the program start up. In order to overcome these problems, Judge Hayse plans on finding the right people to assist with the Juvenile Drug Court program.

Judge Hayse feels that a three to five year outcome evaluation of the Juvenile Drug Court program will be necessary to deem the program a success. However, he believes there will be immediate success through drug-use education and with family relations, as long as the adolescent does not resort back to the deviant behavior. The Judge also feels that if the adolescents stay clean for a full 12 months, the program will have long-term success.

Prosecution Perceptions

One prosecutor from the County Attorney's Office completed a survey regarding the planned Fayette County Juvenile Drug Court program. The County Attorney's Office does not currently have any staff members that are solely dedicated to the Juvenile Drug Court. The responsibilities associated with a Juvenile Drug Court are expected to fall under the umbrella of Juvenile Delinquency Prosecution. The assistant County Attorney stated that one of the most compelling reasons for having a Juvenile Drug Court program in the community is that, "We need to try other alternatives for adolescents who commit crimes solely because of their drug addiction and/or drug abuse." An additional reason for having a Juvenile Drug Court program according to the prosecutor is, "What we are doing isn't working. These juveniles continue to test positive even with the threat and knowledge that detention will be the consequence. [We] need to try something along side detention that can assist drug abusing juveniles from committing delinquent offenses, becoming and staying drug free and to one day become an adult, contributing member of our community."

The prosecutor also stated that she believes the biggest problems with implementing a Juvenile Drug Court program in the community are that the adolescent and his or her family may not take it seriously and also the quality of treatment will depend on how well the program is funded. The quality of treatment will be directly related to the success of the adolescent.

The prosecutor noted that she does expect the Juvenile Drug Court to have an impact on the staff training programs. She feels that the Juvenile Drug Court will impact the staff training programs because there will be more alternatives in the sentencing process. "If Juvenile Drug Court is effective in preventing future delinquent behavior and eliminating drug usage, abuse and addiction among our juvenile population, then everyone will be pleased." In addition, the prosecutor also expects to see an impact on her office's policies and procedures as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program. She stated, "We will help, along with other Court staff, in specifying which cases should be referred to and/or accepted by Juvenile Drug Court. The prosecution must constantly weigh the benefits of drug treatment with individual responsibility for delinquent behavior. Never should drug usage, abuse or addiction eliminate accountability, responsibility and consequences for serious criminal behavior."

The prosecutor feels that the Juvenile Drug Court will have an impact on her office's relationship with community groups. Her comment was, "If it works, everybody, prosecutor, defense attorney, community, and judges will be happy." The prosecutor believes that the Juvenile Drug Court program will have an impact on her community and the County Attorney's office, by reducing the adolescent caseload and decreasing delinquent behavior. The prosecutor feels that an absence of repeat criminal conduct will be important in evaluating the effectiveness of the Juvenile Drug Court program.

The prosecutor contends that the Juvenile Drug Court program will provide savings in police overtime and reduce the number of re-arrests. She does not feel that there will be savings in time spent in court appearances or that time will be saved in terms of case preparation.

According to the prosecutor, two problems that may arise with the Juvenile Drug Court program are severe consequences for the adolescent's non-compliance and the his or her family's ability to commit the time necessary for the adolescents to be successful. Two benefits the prosecutor expects to see as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program are better drug treatment for adolescents and fewer delinquent offenders.

Two strengths expected to result from the Juvenile Drug Court program, according to the prosecutor, are the community's approval of a treatment approach versus detention and positive rehabilitation for adolescent offenders with substance abuse problems.

Defense Perceptions

One public defender completed a survey regarding the planned Fayette County Juvenile Drug Court program. One staff member from the Legal Aid office will be solely dedicated to working with the Juvenile Drug Court program.

The attorney stated that the most compelling reason for implementing a Juvenile Drug Court program in the community is to effectively treat adolescent drug abusers and to make it possible for children to remain in their homes and communities while maintaining sobriety. The biggest problem or barrier with implementing a Juvenile Drug Court program in the community, according to the attorney, is the lack of outpatient and inpatient programs for adolescent substance abuse treatment.

The attorney noted that the Juvenile Drug Court program will have an impact on attorney and staff orientation and training programs by making the staff learn how to evaluate adolescents' suitability and eligibility for the Juvenile Drug Court program. The attorney does not feel that the program will impact the office policies, procedures, or the office's relationship with community groups.

The most critical component of a planned Juvenile Drug Court program, according to the attorney, will be getting adolescents who are drug abusers into varied treatment procedures so that every client's actual problem is addressed. The attorney believes that participants will enter the Juvenile Drug Court program because they are forced to enter. The lawyer also mentioned that adolescents don't usually think they have a drug problem, and will not choose an intensive, long-term program over less severe alternatives. The attorney noted that adolescents, who may be placed outside of the home, might agree to enter the Juvenile Drug Court program in order to remain at home. The attorney feels that participants would remain in the Juvenile Drug Court program because they will like the structure, activities, peers, and improvement in their lives that the program offers.

The Juvenile Drug Court will impact the Legal Aid office by changing the focus of defense, which will be one of treatment.

The attorney agrees that the Juvenile Drug Court program will provide a savings to the jurisdiction by providing less time spent in court appearances and the reduced number of re-arrests. The attorney disagrees that the Juvenile Drug Court program will provide a savings in time saved in terms of case preparation. There should not be any additional costs or savings as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program to the Legal Aid office.

The attorney indicated that the Legal Aid office has gained a better morale by working with the planned Juvenile Drug Court program, because the involvement of the office has created a feeling of making a difference and helping the community. Another significant benefit that the attorney's office expects to receive from working with the Juvenile Drug Court program is a reduction in caseload due to an eventual reduction in the recidivism rate.

The following four questions the attorney provided that would help in evaluating the effectiveness of a Juvenile Drug Court program: (1) Did the appropriate adolescents get into the program; (2) Did those adolescents get treated; (3) Was delinquency or drug abuse reduced at any point; and (4) Did the adolescent get to stay in the home with his or her family longer?

Treatment, focus on the drug problem, and recognition of drugs as the problem, are potential strengths that the attorney feels the Juvenile Drug Court program will offer. The problems, the attorney feels the Juvenile Drug Court program will have, are that many adolescents have drug-using parents, no mentors, and that it will be hard for adolescents to realize their drug problem and volunteer for such a program.

School Representative Perceptions

Two representatives from the Fayette County School System filled out surveys regarding the planned Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program. The representatives feel that the most compelling reason for implementing a Juvenile Drug Court program is to expand the options for treatment resources for adolescents with drug/alcohol problems. One representative also felt that using Court leverage to connect first time offenders with treatment services was another reason for implementing a Juvenile Drug Court program. Another representative feels that the biggest problem/barrier with implementing a Juvenile Drug Court program will be the coordination of services and various providers. Scarcity of services for alcohol/drug treatment, community denial of a substance abuse problem, and few intervention services available via middle and high schools, are problems/barriers that the other representative feels will accompany the implementation of a Juvenile Drug Court program.

The school representatives have not noticed any impact on the school orientation/training programs or the school policies/procedures, as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program. One representative noted that there may be an impact as they move closer to a working program, but it is too early to tell at this point in time. One representative believes that the Juvenile Drug Court program has had an impact on the school's relationship with community groups because the "Juvenile Drug Court discussions and several other programs under way have increased the connections and cooperative ventures."

The school representatives feel that a decrease in repeat offenses and an increase in successful treatment will be important in evaluating the effectiveness of Juvenile Drug Court. One representative added that the number of referred participants, the number of participants completing the program, and an improvement in agency cooperation and related partnerships will also be important in evaluating the effectiveness of Juvenile Drug Court. One representative believes that the most critical components of the Juvenile Drug Court program will be: (1) The assessment and screening of candidates for appropriateness of services; (2) The development of a variety of options for cheap, outpatient services, possibly para-professional counseling; and (3) The utilization of accredited providers offering prevention education, support groups, and related support services. The other representative feels that the weekly supervision by the Judge, the required treatment, and the drug testing will be the most critical components of the Juvenile Drug Court program.

One school representative believes that participants will enter the Juvenile Drug Court program because of parental pressure and to avoid traditional Court processes. The representative feels that participants will remain in the Juvenile Drug Court program because they will feel supported by the system.

Police Perceptions

Two police representatives filled out surveys regarding the planned Fayette County Juvenile Drug Court program. It is unknown at this time whether or not any law enforcement/correctional staff will be solely dedicated to the Juvenile Drug Court program, but the police representatives believe that a part-time liaison officer will be assigned to the program. The police representatives feel that the early age of offenders involved in drug activity and related criminal behavior are the most compelling reason for implementing a Juvenile Drug Court program.

The police representatives expect that the Juvenile Drug Court program will impact the officer/staff orientation and training programs because the Drug Court staff is involved in new police officer recruit training, and the curriculum will be expanded to include information on the Juvenile Drug Court program. The representatives do not expect any impact on arrest/jail policies and procedures as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program. They do, however, expect “Community Relations Activities with Drug Court staff to gain community support.”

The police representatives indicated that there is a community-policing program. The officers will assist the Drug Court staff with home visits, picking up those who abscond, and others who have violated program requirements.

According to the police representatives, the effectiveness of the Juvenile Drug Court program may be determined by the recidivism rates after completion, the number of participants who go on to become adult offenders, the educational level obtained while in the program, and statistics regarding positive/negative urine screens.

The police representatives agree that the Juvenile Drug Court will provide savings by the reduced number of re-arrests but strongly disagree that the program provides savings by less time spent in court appearances. The police representatives do not expect any additional costs, savings, impacts, or problems for their office/agency as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program.

The police representatives believe that the intense supervision of participants, the mandated family involvement, the frequent and random urine testing, and drug abuse treatment will be some of the potential strengths of the Juvenile Drug Court program. They feel that the mandated family involvement may cause some problems and/or drawbacks with the Juvenile Drug Court program, along with locating treatment providers.

Department of Juvenile Justice Perceptions

Four representatives from the Department of Juvenile Justice completed surveys regarding the planned Fayette County Juvenile Drug Court program. Some of the most compelling reasons for having a Juvenile Drug Court program in the community according to the representatives are that it applies a treatment-based approach and addresses the said problems correctly. One representative commented that “The number of youth with drug/alcohol related delinquent offenses is continually increasing, and resources are not. There are very few treatment options available for these youth in Fayette County.” Another representative commented “Lexington has an Early Intervention Program that provides alcohol, tobacco, and other drug information to first and second time offenders through the court Designated Worker Program. Juvenile Court needs a ‘next level’ for those youth who are past the early intervention phase. Drug treatment is needed for those youth who continue to have positive drug tests. The Kentucky Juvenile Court System is meant to be a rehabilitative system, and Drug Court would enhance the rehabilitative nature.”

Each representative noted they expect the Juvenile Drug Court to have an impact on the staff training programs. One representative feels that the Juvenile Drug Court will impact the staff training programs because, “Training for the Police Officers designated for Drug Court will be required- specifically regarding program expectations.” One representative expects to see an impact on arrest/jail policies and procedures as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program. He stated, “Drug Court has the ability to better monitor their treatment needs. If drug treatment is provided then there should be less detention time for a positive drug test. The youth need more treatment, in addition to providing treatment to their families.” Some of the representatives feel that the Juvenile Drug Court will have an impact on their agency’s relationship with community groups. One representative explained that he believes this because, “Drug Court will offer the community another resource that can enhance the rehabilitation and quality of life for those adolescents involved in alcohol and other drugs.” Another representative feels that the Drug Court program will impact his agency’s relationship with community groups by raising awareness and encouraging collaboration between the agency and the community groups.

Two of the main factors listed by the representatives as important in evaluating the effectiveness of the Juvenile Drug Court program were recidivism of the participants and follow-up assessments.

According to one representative, the Juvenile Drug Court program will have an impact on the community and office. She noted that the way in which the program will impact the community and office is by changing from a criminal perspective to a treatment perspective. The other representatives also believe that the Juvenile Drug Court program will have an impact on the community and office. One representative indicated that there will be a reduction in crime as a result of the program. Another representative stated that she feels the Juvenile Drug Court program will demonstrate effective ways to improve the lives of youth and families. The other representative believes that the community and office will be impacted because one probation officer will be dedicated to Drug Court supervision, providing all the monitoring that is needed.

The representatives agree that the Juvenile Drug Court program will provide savings due to less time spent in court appearances and savings in police/corrections overtime. Representatives also agree that the Juvenile Drug Court program will provide savings in reduced number of re-arrests.

One representative feels that the most critical components of the Juvenile Drug Court program are that treatment plans can be mandated and enforced by Juvenile Drug Court, targeting specific behaviors, and it will involve the whole family. One problem a representative feels the agency may have, as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program, is increased court appearances.

Three benefits one of the representatives expects to see in her office as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program are: (1) A referral source for those youth who need further drug-related treatment services; (2) A reduction in recidivism; and (3) A reduction in drug-related criminal behavior. Another representative feels that some of the most significant benefits that will impact his office would be a lower caseload and job satisfaction.

Three potential strengths of the Juvenile Drug Court program, according to a representative, will be: (1) "Collaborative, wrap around services for youth;" (2) "Increased accountability for each youth;" and (3) "Consistent, swift sanctions for non-compliance." Another representative feels that a team of Court officials will be a strength that the Drug Court program will have.

Conclusions

In summary, the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court received federal planning grant in July 1999. The program will be based on the *Key Components* and will have three program phases. The Drug Court team has not officially determined the duration of the program, however, a 12 month program is strongly being considered.

The Drug Court team and Drug Court Judge are dedicated to the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program and the adolescents served. The Judge and many members of the Drug Court team members have worked extensively with adolescents in treatment and in the Court System. The Drug Court program has made linkages with approximately 15 other agencies in the community.

The most compelling aspect of the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program will be that it offers the opportunity to address substance abuse and criminal behavior in adolescents at an early age. Hopefully, this intervention in the adolescent's life will prevent the adolescent from continuing the same patterns in to his or her adult life. Coordination between the judiciary, the Drug Court staff, and the treatment provider is also a compelling aspect of the Juvenile Drug Court program. This aspect will be highlighted by the immediate sanctions that are used when a adolescent is non-compliant or breaks program rules.

The Judge and planning coordinator agreed that participants will find out about the Drug Court program most often through their attorneys, a Judge, and through word of mouth. The main reasons cited for why participants enter the Drug Court program were to avoid jail time, get charges dropped or probation sentence shortened, and get help for their substance abuse problem. Participants remain in the program for the same reasons.

Additional services the Drug Court program could offer that were mentioned among respondents included: (1) Provide outpatient and inpatient programs for adolescent substance abuse treatment; (2) Implement more community service into the program requirements; and (3) Provide intervention services in middle and high schools.

For the most part, there was agreement that the most difficult aspect of the Drug Court program for participants will be family involvement.

The following were the most commonly mentioned strengths of the Drug Court program across respondents: (1) Judicial interaction; (2) Mandated family involvement; (3) Frequent and random drug testing; (4) Intense supervision of participants; (5) Increased accountability for each adolescent; (6) Collaborative, wrap around services for youth; (7) Consistent, swift sanctions for non-compliance; (8) A serious interest in and providing alternatives for the adolescents; and (9) An effective team of Court officials.

The following are the most commonly mentioned useful components of the Drug Court program across respondents: (1) Getting adolescents that are drug abusers into varied treatment procedures, so that every participant's actual problem is addressed; (2) Assessing and screening of candidates for appropriateness of services; (3) Developing of a variety of options for cheap outpatient services, possibly para-professional counseling; (4) Utilizing accredited providers offering prevention education, support groups, and related support services; (5) Weekly supervising by the Judge; (6) Drug testing; and (7) Involving the entire family.

The following were the most commonly mentioned areas for improvement of the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program: (1) Treatment resources; (2) An outpatient treatment program, and (3) A graduated sanction system in place.

Advice suggested for new Drug Court programs included: (1) The Juvenile Drug Court personnel should not provide all of the treatment, because the treatment may become too focused on one issue or strategy, and may not treat every participant's underlying problem; (2) More community service should be implemented into the program requirements; (3) Drug Court should provide aftercare services for the adolescents; (4) There needs to be family involvement as much as possible; and (5) Those close to adolescents need to be encourage to participate voluntarily.

The following was a concluding response given by a representative of the Drug Court program. The representative commented that her office has gained a better morale by working with the planned Juvenile Drug Court program, because the involvement of the office has created a feeling of making a difference and helping the community.

Developing a management information system as soon as possible is also recommended. Currently, a Management Information System is being developed for the Jefferson, Warren, and Fayette Adult Drug Courts. Implementing a Management Information System early in the Juvenile Drug Court program will make data collection and measuring program goals much easier.

The Judge and Drug Court team truly believe in the program and also believe that it will be an opportunity to make a difference in the youth of the community. The program has great support from community leaders and the judiciary. With the implementation of the recommendations, this program should continue to grow and make a real difference in the lives of the adolescents and the community it serves.

Process Evaluation Methodology

The Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program process evaluation used structured interviews and a specific methodological protocol. The methodology protocol and interview procedures were used in a number of process evaluations across the state of Kentucky. This allows for comparisons of similarities and differences among the specific Drug Court program sites if desired.

The process evaluation for the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program included one interview with the Drug Court Judge and an extensive three-hour interview with the Drug Court program planning coordinator. Semi-structured surveys were distributed and collected from defense council, prosecutors, school representatives, police department representatives, and Department of Juvenile Justice representatives. The specific breakdown of interviews is as follows:

Table 5. Process Evaluation Methodology

Interviews:	Number Completed	Response Rates
Judge	1	100%
Drug Court Planning coordinator	1	100%
Defense Council	1	100%
Prosecution	1	100%
Department of Juvenile Justice	4	100%
Police Department	2	100%
Local schools	2	100%
Total	12	100%

The limitations for this process evaluation report include generalization over time and among programs. This report is specifically for the planning period for the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program, from July 1999 to June 2000. Changes that occur after this point in time are not reflected in this report. The representatives surveyed for this report may or may not reflect all attitudes toward the planned Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program. Regardless, the report will be critical for documenting the program implementation.